

His abilities were on display at the 53rd United States-Mexico Interparliamentary Group Meeting in Mexico City this past summer. The meeting transpired at a pivotal time, and Renn's efforts were key in communicating the close historic, economic, and cultural bonds that have been forged as a result of the U.S.-Mexico relationship over the past 192 years.

I am pleased that Renn has continued his public service on Capitol Hill as the speechwriter for Senator ROB PORTMAN. I look forward to seeing him continue to grow and develop as a wordsmith and as a communicator who is happy to serve his fellow citizens.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1,
TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the hard work of those who made the Conference Report possible.

Thank you to the expert drafters at the House and Senate offices of legislative counsel who worked together on the Conference report after having worked for so many months with the House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee on the underlying bills: Henry Christrup, Scott Probst, Fiona Heckscher, and House Legislative Counsel Wade Ballou; and Mark McGunagle, Allison Otto, Vince Gaianni and former Senate Legislative Counsel Jim Fransen.

Thank you also to the hardworking team of JCT economists, lawyers, and accountants, who support all aspects of our work on tax legislation:

Nick Bull, Jim Cilke, Tim Dowd, Chris Giosa, Lucas Goodman, Rob Harvey, Tom Holtmann, Paul Landefeld, Joe LeCates, Kathleen Mackie, Jamie McGuire, Pam Moomau, Rachel Moore, Jake Mortenson, Chris Overend, Brandon Pecoraro, Zach Richards, Heidi Schramm, David Splinter, Lori Stuntz, Brent Trigg, Jeff Arbeit, Nita Asher, Lillian Aston, Paul Chen, Gordon Clay, Adam Gropper, Andrew Grossman, Nick Gutmann, Viva Hammer, Heather Harman, Harold Hirsch, Deirdre James, Sally Kwak, David Lenter, Bert Lue, Tricia McDermott, Paul McLaughlin, Veena Murthy, Cecily Rock, Kristine Roth, Karl Russo, Natalie Tucker, and Kashi Way.

And a special thank you to JCT chief of staff Tom Barthold for his excellent leadership of this outstanding team.

HONORING JOHN GIBSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John Gibson. John is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy

Scouts of America, Troop 96, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

John has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years John has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, John has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. John organized and led a blood drive at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Gallatin, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending John Gibson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MAYOR SUZETTE
COOKE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Suzette Cooke, the Mayor of the City of Kent, on her retirement. The citizens of Kent will miss her commitment, unstoppable work ethic, and passion.

For many decades prior to serving as Mayor, Suzette Cooke was a devoted public servant. She was the Executive Director of the Renton and Kent Chambers of Commerce, the Economic Development Manager for the City of Burien, the Recreation Supervisor for Seattle Parks, and Director of the Kent Senior Center. She also served three terms in the Washington State House of Representatives, where she chaired the Committee on Children and Family Services.

Under her leadership as Mayor, Kent has grown from a small, farming town, to a sizable city boasting a population of 125,000. Mayor Cooke has created a welcoming environment for people from a range of different backgrounds in a city that has become one of the most diverse in the country.

In addition to Suzette Cooke's duties as Mayor, she has remained an active volunteer and has served with organizations that help better the community she loves. Impressively, she has chaired the Kent Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund Board, the King County Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee, and the South County Area Transportation Board. She has also been a member of the King County's Regional Transit Task Force and the King County Board of Health.

On top of her professional and civic engagements, Mayor Cooke has also found the time to remain an avid recreationist and has summited eight of Washington State's tallest mountains. It seems clear that, for her, no challenge is insurmountable.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize Mayor Suzette Cooke on her retirement. It has been a privilege to work with dedicated leaders like Mayor Cooke. I thank her for her service to her community and wish her all the best in retirement.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
ARTHUR RADFORD BAKER, JR.

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate a distinguished public servant, and one of the "dedicated men and women of law enforcement." Mr. Arthur Radford Baker, Jr., will retire from the Federal Bureau of Investigation on December 31 of this year, after 30 years of service.

During his tenure at the FBI, Art has served in various capacities. He has led colleagues as a supervisor on counterintelligence and espionage matters out of the Baltimore Field Office, using sophisticated investigative techniques straight out of Hollywood spy thrillers. He has investigated organized crime, including La Cosa Nostra and Asian and Russian syndicates, out of the Detroit Field Office. Art even attained the highest marksmanship award the Bureau has to offer, qualifying for his name to be enshrined on a wall at Quantico as part of the FBI's elite "Possible Club." In large part, though, it has been Art's service to our country as a Congressional detailee that stands out as one his fondest memories, including many legislative successes to which he contributed that are now memorialized and framed as "redlines" of passed laws.

Art served faithfully for nearly 3 years as a detailee from the FBI to the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. During his tenure, Art was a consistently reliable and capable staffer and legal counsel, and a great colleague. He was particularly beloved by our departed colleague and friend, the gentleman from North Carolina, Congressman Howard Coble.

In his work at the Judiciary Committee, Art staffed Chairman Lamar Smith and Subcommittee Chairman Coble for a multitude of assignments, including issues that spanned a spectrum of pressing matters, including Patriot Act hearings and legislation on child exploitation and trafficking. Art was a dedicated, crucial staffer upon whom Members could rely.

After returning to the FBI, Art served with distinction in the Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA). His service in OCA spanned a transitional era in American history, including the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the espionage leaks of Robert Hanssen, and the resulting reformulation of the FBI. Through it all, Art was a vital cog in our nation's premier law enforcement agency, and a steadfast friend to the Judiciary Committee. It is often said in Washington that legislating is the "art" of the possible. How appropriate that we say that today.

Throughout his career, Art Baker has been a loyal public servant. For years, my staff has relied on his insight, his wise counsel, and his consistent ability to make us laugh. Many marvel at his various skills and interests, earning him a legitimate moniker as a "Renaissance Man." We expect that the forthcoming stage of his life in retirement will not be any less varied or adventurous.

I salute Art for his many years of distinguished service.